

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/646,832

Applicant(s)

TAKESHITA, TETSUYA

Examiner

Pritham Prabhakher

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to independent **Claim 1**, the closest prior art of record fails to teach or clearly suggest, "*An electronic camera having one of a light emitting unit and a connection terminal to a light emitting unit, said electronic camera comprising:*

an imaging unit for capturing an image of a subject;

a calculating unit for calculating a color temperature of a double illumination according to the image captured with the double illumination which is illumination of both field light and emitted light emitted by said light emitting unit; and

a setting unit for allowing the calculated color temperature to be utilized in a white balance correction value to be applied to said image, wherein

when said calculated color temperature is in a predetermined range, said setting unit uses a predetermined color temperature which is utilized in the white balance correction value that is different than the calculated color temperature.

Regarding dependent **claims 2-8**, these claims are allowed because they depend on allowed independent claim 1.

With regard to independent **Claim 9**, the closest prior art of record fails to teach or clearly suggest, "A *white balance correction circuit for use with an electronic camera capable of emitting light, said circuit comprising:*

a calculating unit for calculating a color temperature of double illumination according to an image captured by said electronic camera with the double illumination which is illumination of both field light and emitted light; and

a setting unit for allowing the calculated color temperature to be utilized in a white balance correction value to be applied to said image, wherein

when said calculated color temperature is in a predetermined range, said setting unit uses a predetermined color temperature which is utilized in the white balance correction value that is different than the calculated color temperature.

Regarding dependent **claims 10-16**, these claims are allowed because they depend on allowed independent claim 9.

The following are the closest references found:

Nishimura et al. (US Patent No.: 5617141) disclose an image pickup device including an image pickup unit for converting an optical image of a subject to an image signal, a signal processor for producing a video signal from the image signal, an ambience determining unit for determining image pickup ambience of the subject, and a control unit for controlling image quality of the video signal output from said signal

processor in accordance with a result of the determination of the ambience determining unit. The image quality control unit includes at least one of a white balance control unit, an exposure control unit, and a configuration correction/chroma signal gain control unit. The control characteristic of the image quality control unit is changed depending on the result of the determination of the ambience determining unit.

Abe (US Patent No.: 5568194) discloses that when an exposure condition when an electronic flash is to be used, i.e., an aperture value and a shutter speed, is determined based on a photometry value. Under the exposure condition, a photographing operation is carried out without use of the electronic flash, and image data obtained by this photographing operation are stored in a first image memory. Further, another photographing operation is carried out with use of the electronic flash, and image data obtained by this photographing operation are stored in a second image memory. The image data stored in the first and second image memories are read out and the luminance signals of corresponding pixels are compared. When the difference between the luminance signals is large, the white balance adjustment is performed based on electronic flash light. When the difference between the luminance signals is small, the white balance adjustment is performed based on the ambient daylight.

Tseng (US Patent No.: 6529235B1) discloses an auto white balance apparatus and an auto white balance method in a digital camera with a strobe. The digital camera has an image sensor for capturing external images and a flash module. The flash

module stops flashing when a first voltage signal representing a detected brightness of the flash module is larger than a reference voltage signal. An exposure time is determined based on brightness of the image captured by the image sensor. The flash module detects brightness based on the exposure time for establishing a second voltage signal. A white balance adjustment is performed based on a ratio of the reference voltage signal and the second voltage signal.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pritham Prabhakher whose telephone number is 571-270-1128. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-5:00) Alt Friday's Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Pritham . D. Prabhakher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ometz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER